

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3512

To provide for the establishment of demonstration programs to address the shortages of health care professionals in rural areas, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2003

Mr. OTTER (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. DICKS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. DUNN, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mrs. CUBIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To provide for the establishment of demonstration programs to address the shortages of health care professionals in rural areas, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Rural Health Training  
5       Incentive Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE**  
2 **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO PRACTICE IN**  
3 **RURAL AREAS.**

4 Part B of title VII of the Public Health Service Act  
5 (42 U.S.C. 293 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
6 the following:

7 **“SEC. 742. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE**  
8 **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO PRACTICE IN**  
9 **RURAL AREAS.**

10 “(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary of Health and  
11 Human Services, acting through the Director of the Office  
12 of Rural Health Policy, may award grants to 5 accredited  
13 schools of medicine or accredited schools of nursing to en-  
14 able each such school to conduct a demonstration program  
15 to encourage more health professionals to practice in rural  
16 areas.

17 “(b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—

18 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Amounts provided as a  
19 grant under subsection (a) shall be used for the fol-  
20 lowing:

21 “(A) Developing new programs and im-  
22 proving existing programs for encouraging  
23 youth in rural areas to enter health professions.

24 “(B) Strengthening and stabilizing the sys-  
25 tem of training of health professionals that are

1           needed (as determined by the Secretary) in  
2           rural areas.

3           “(C) Expanding the network of rural train-  
4           ing tracks in health professions.

5           “(2) FAMILY MEDICINE; NURSING.—Of the 5  
6           grants awarded under this section—

7           “(A) at least 1 shall be for a demonstra-  
8           tion program for physicians in family medicine  
9           that includes a regional consortium with 3 or  
10          more family medicine residency programs  
11          that—

12                  “(i) each have a residency rural train-  
13                  ing program; and

14                  “(ii) are located in 3 or more States;  
15          and

16          “(B) at least 1 shall be for a demonstra-  
17          tion program for nurses, including registered  
18          nurses, nurse anesthetists, and nurse practi-  
19          tioners.

20          “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
21          tion, the Secretary shall give priority to accredited schools  
22          of medicine or nursing that—

23                  “(1) have a residency program or clinical rota-  
24          tion with on-site rural training of a duration of at  
25          least 2 months; and

1           “(2) provide a comprehensive approach to im-  
2     proving health profession shortages in rural areas  
3     that includes recruiting students from rural areas  
4     and placing graduates in rural communities.

5     “(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the costs of  
7     a demonstration program to be carried out under  
8     subsection (a) by an applicant, the Secretary may  
9     not award a grant to the applicant unless the appli-  
10    cant agrees to make available (directly or through  
11    donations from public or private entities) non-Fed-  
12    eral contributions toward such costs in an amount  
13    that is not less than 50 percent of such costs.

14          “(2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIB-  
15    UTED.—Non-Federal contributions required in para-  
16    graph (1) may be in cash or in kind, fairly evalu-  
17    ated, including plant, equipment, or services.  
18    Amounts provided by the Federal Government, or  
19    services assisted or subsidized to any significant ex-  
20    tent by the Federal Government, may not be in-  
21    cluded in determining the amount of such non-Fed-  
22    eral contributions.

23          “(e) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award each  
24    grant under this section for a period of 3 years.

25          “(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

1           “(1) ACCREDITED.—The term ‘accredited’  
2       means—

3           “(A) for a school of medicine, accredited  
4       by the Liaison Committee on Medical Edu-  
5       cation;

6           “(B) for a school of nursing, accredited by  
7       the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Edu-  
8       cation; and

9           “(C) for a school of nursing relative to a  
10      nurse anesthesia program, accredited by the  
11      Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia  
12      Educational Programs.

13          “(2) SCHOOL OF NURSING.—The term ‘school  
14      of nursing’ has the meaning given to that term  
15      under section 801.

16          “(g) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the  
17      end of the 3-year period of the demonstration programs  
18      conducted with grants under this section, the Secretary  
19      shall submit to the Congress a report containing findings  
20      and recommendations on the effectiveness of the dem-  
21      onstration programs in addressing the shortages of health  
22      care professionals in rural areas.

1       “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2007.”.

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